

SECOND ONLY TO LUSITANIA DISASTER, IS TORPEDOING OF THE BRITISH LINER PERSIA

British Passenger Steamer
With Two or More Amer-
icans Aboard is Sunk in
Eastern Mediterranean by
Submarine

AMERICAN CONSUL
IS ON BOARD

Meager Reports Indicate
That Many Passengers
and Members of the Crew
Probably Perished When
Ship Went Down

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

LONDON, Jan. 1. — The British passenger steamer Persia, with two or more Americans on board, was sunk Thursday in the Eastern Mediterranean by a submarine. It is feared that the disaster, from a standpoint of loss of life among non-belligerent voyagers, will rank second only to the sinking of the Lusitania.

Unofficial figures indicate that there were about 160 passengers on board the Persia and between 250 and 300 members of the crew. Four boats, each capable of carrying sixty persons, got away, and their occupants were picked up by a steamer bound for Alexandria.

Robert McNeely of Monroe, N. C., who was on his way to take office as American consul at Aden, Arabia, and Charles Grant of Boston, were on the Persia.

In addition to the passengers who sailed from London, a large number embarked at Marseilles. The total booked at these points was 231. Of these, 87 were women and 25 children.

The Persia was a steamer of 7,974 gross tons and was owned by the Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation company of London. She sailed from Bombay, November 14, for London, and was last reported as leaving Gibraltar on December 2.

The scene of the catastrophe, between the island of Crete and Alexandria, recently has been the graveyard of a number of fine ships, and only a few weeks ago the American tank steamer Petrolite narrowly escaped the guns of a submarine there.

CONSUL M'NEELY PROBABLY LOST WITH THE PERSIA

CHARLOTTE, N. C., Jan. 1. — Robert Ney McNeely, the United States consul on board the torpedoed ship Persia, was accompanied aboard by his brother, Dowd McNeely, until recently editor of the Waxhaw (N. C.) Enterprise. It was stated at Monroe tonight, Dowd McNeely was said to have been his brother's secretary.

Robert McNeely was born near Waxhaw in 1884. He was educated at the University of North Carolina and practiced law here before entering the consular service. He had been a member of both houses of the North Carolina general assembly.

WASHINGTON IS ANXIOUSLY WAITING FOR DETAILS OF TORPEDOING OF PERSIA

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1. — Official Washington tonight anxiously awaited details of the torpedoing of the British steamer Persia, on which American citizens were known to have embarked.

While it was realized that reports expected from consular and diplomatic representatives might show that the submarine commander was justified in sinking the vessel, officials were not inclined to minimize the gravity of the situation confronting the United States should it develop that there has been a violation of American rights. New dangers, it was admitted, threatened the relations between the United States and the central powers which seemingly had just been placed on the road to satisfactory adjustment by the assurances contained in Austria's reply to the second Ancon note.

Should it develop that the submarine was of Austrian nationality, as there apparently is ground for believing, the Vienna government will be given every opportunity to explain. Meantime, the state department desires that it be determined definitely whether the Persia tried to escape; whether the torpedo was fired at her after or before she had stopped; whether warning was given; and whether the passengers had sufficient time in which to leave the vessel.

Only two official dispatches con-

cerning the sinking of the Persia were received by the state department today. These were from Consul General Skinner at London and the information they contained virtually was identical with that in press dispatches. Copies immediately were transmitted to President Wilson at Hot Springs, and the department dispatched requests for information to its representatives in Alexandria, Egypt and other points where survivors might be landed or details of the attack might be available from other sources.

One American citizen aboard the Persia was Robert McNeely, newly appointed consul at Aden. The belief was expressed in official circles tonight that had he escaped some report would have been forwarded by him, as more than two days had elapsed since the vessel went down. In the absence of specific details Secretary Lansing tonight declined to comment upon the sinking of the Persia. He made clear that until the nationality of the submarine had been definitely established and the circumstances of the attack were known, no action would be taken.

It was realized that, had an Austrian submarine destroyed the vessel, the Vienna government might offer the explanation that there had not been sufficient time for new instructions conforming to the as-

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HENRY FORD REACHES HOME LEAVING PEACE PARTY BEHIND

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

NEW YORK, Jan. 1. — The Norwegian-American liner Bergensfjord, on which Henry Ford is returning from his peace mission to Europe, arrived at quarantine at 12:50 this morning.

and will dock in Brooklyn about 9 o'clock. Mr. Ford probably will leave the vessel at quarantine. It was said last night that preparations have been made by Dudley Field Malone, collector of the port, to go down the bay early this morning to meet the returning pacifist.

Mr. Ford's wife and his son, Edsel Ford, arrived here yesterday afternoon, accompanied by several friends, to await his arrival. It is expected the party will leave for Detroit some time this afternoon.

Students Are Leaving
COPENHAGEN, Jan. 1. — (Via London). — About one-third of the members of the Ford peace expedition, the majority of whom are students, will leave the party at Copenhagen. The remaining members of the party, about 100 Americans, are going to The Hague. The reason assigned for the students' action is that it was thought undesirable for them to take the risk of a voyage through the North sea.

The expedition has obtained information that it will possibly take six days more time than is usually required to move only in the daytime. Members of the expedition express the desire to reach The Hague, as they are unable to obtain publicity or hold meetings in Copenhagen. The Mayor Lindhagen of Stockholm has arrived in Copenhagen and joined the party.

MONTANA PIONEER DEAD

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

GREENFIELD, Mass., Jan. 1. — Francis M. Thompson, who was prominent in the pioneer days of Montana and who designed the official shield of that state, died suddenly at his home here tonight. He was formerly judge of the probate court of this county.

MANY OFFICERS GO DOWN WITH NATAL

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

LONDON, Jan. 1. — Seventeen officers, including Captain Eric Back and Chaplain Algernon S. O. Sweet and nine warrant officers, were lost when the cruiser Natal sank Thursday "while in harbor" as the result of an internal explosion.

Captain Back is remembered for his connection, in 1913, with a sprint of 100 yards against Rear Admiral Sir Robert K. Arbuthnot, made in fulfillment of a bet by them twenty years previously. Rear Admiral Arbuthnot was 49 years old and Captain Back 48. The race was run at Portsmouth, England, and Captain Back won by a yard in the excellent time of 12 seconds.

NINETEEN SIXTEEN NAMED HUNG HIN

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 1. — Yuan Shi Kai, head of the Chinese government, following the example of his predecessors, has given the new year the name Hung Hin, according to calendars received here today from Peking. China, says the Chinese newspaper. In the past it was the custom, the Chinese say, for each emperor, on taking the throne, to confer upon the year of his accession a name by which that year and each succeeding one of his reign shall be known.

Yuan Shi Kai has announced that he would take the throne of China as emperor in January 1916.

BOMB FOUND IN BOSTON CAPITOL

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

BOSTON, Jan. 1. — An unsuccessful attempt to dynamite the state house was made today. A bomb containing four pounds of explosive had been attached to a basement door and a fuse lighted, but the flame apparently died before reaching the detonator. Had the explosion occurred, in the opinion of the police, the building would have been greatly damaged. The fact that a fuse was used as a fuse, according to investigators, indicated that the bomb was the work of a novice.

A scrub woman discovered the bomb this morning. The police took it to a subterranean chamber and discharged the dynamite.

WIFE FIRES FATAL SHOT AT HUSBAND

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

ALAMEDA, Calif., Jan. 1. — Enrico D'Agostini, 48 years old, an employee in the San Francisco office of the French-American Steamship company, was shot and killed tonight by his 28-year-old wife, Jennett, during an altercation concerning household expenses. After firing the shot Mrs. D'Agostini telephoned to the police and, according to the authorities, confessed. She told the police that she had accidentally pulled the trigger while threatening her husband, who, she said, was attempting to strike her and their two young children. She was arrested.

CHICAGO HAD BIG LOSSES BY FIRE

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

CHICAGO, Jan. 1. — The fire loss of Chicago in 1915 was \$2,557,878, according to the report of Chief O'Connor today. Chicago's firemen responded to 13,621 alarms in 1915 and in 1914 they made 14,977 runs. This decrease of 1,356 fires was ascribed to three causes.

The heavy rain during the summer months; the work of the fire prevention bureau in stimulating greater precautions against fire; the arrests and convictions of members of the "arson trust."

OIL BOAT BURNED AT SAN JUAN DOCK

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

SAN JUAN, Porto Rico, Jan. 1. — The American schooner Forest City, with a cargo of palm oil, burned at her dock here today. The Forest City was bound from Calabar, on the west coast of Africa, to New York.

The Forest City, disabled by storms and with eleven of her crew suffering from beri-beri, reached San Juan on December 13 after a seventy-one-day voyage from West Africa.

GEORGIA LED IN 1915 LYNCHINGS

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

MONTGOMERY, Jan. 1. — Lynchings in the United States in 1915 numbered sixty-nine as recorded at Tuskegee Institute and announced today. This was seventeen more than in 1914. Georgia led the states with eighteen lynchings. Mississippi was second, with nine. Fifty-five persons lynched were negroes and 14 whites. The year before 49 were negroes and three were whites. Three women were 1915 mob victims.

In four instances, according to the Tuskegee records, innocent persons were put to death by mobs as proved by later events.

EDITOR AND AUTHOR IS DEAD

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

NEW YORK, Jan. 1. — Edward Lyman Bill died today at New Rochelle, in his fifty-fourth year. He was born at Lyme, Conn. He was editor and publisher of the Musical Trade Review, the Talking Machine World and El Mundo. He was also a fiction writer.

REJUVENATED RUSSIAN ARMY IS ATTACKING AUSTRIANS IN GALICIA

Reports from Vienna and Petrograd Claim Advantages for Respective Sides But Neither Describes Decisive Results

RUSSIA PREPARING FOR SOME TIME

Result of the Battle is Expected to Have an Important Effect on Balkan Situation, Particularly Rumanian Policy

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

LONDON, Jan. 1. — The rejuvenated Russian army, equipped with munitions from Japan, America and England, is engaged in a great attack on the Austro-Hungarian forces in Galicia. Reports from Vienna and Petrograd, claim the advantage for their respective forces but neither capital describes decisive results. The details which are few and conflicting give no definite description of the battle line.

Newspaper correspondents in Petrograd estimate that one and a half million of Austro-Germans are engaged and assert that whatever changes have occurred in the fighting line are in favor of the Russians. The Austrian war office official report says that the Russian attacks were everywhere repulsed with heavy losses.

A significant fact is that the Russian army has again been able to take the offensive. Recent telegrams from the war theater where this battle is raging say that the Austrians show better fighting qualities now than in the earlier stages of the war.

The result of the battle is expected to have an important influence on the Balkan situation, particularly on the Rumanian policy. Apparently Russia has been preparing for these operations for some time past. Cable communications from the Bessarabian region has virtually been suspended for more than a month, thousands of messages being held up until Wednesday last when the censorship was lightened and they began coming through.

Other important news of the day was the announcement of the sinking of the India-bound British liner Persia near the island of Crete Thursday afternoon. The Persia carried more than 200 passengers and a crew of between 200 and 300. The cargo was small. Reports received here have given rise to a fear that a majority of the passengers were lost, which if true makes this the most disastrous result of the submarine campaign since the sinking of the Lusitania. Among the passengers were three Americans, Robert McNeely, American consul at Aden; Charles Grant of Boston, and Edward Rose of Dover. There were also 30 British officers aboard the Persia bound for India, including Lord Montagu.

Cable communication with the east

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Lid Is Clamped Down Tight On Gambling In This City

The lid has been clamped down tight on gambling in Phoenix. More than that the ban has been placed on card games having even the semblance of gambling. Eleven places where card games were in progress, or where they are known to be permitted, were closed by a bang last night when Chief of Police George O. Briscoe made a personal visit to each of the eleven establishments and notified the proprietors that the games must cease. Despite protests in almost every instance, and assurances that no gambling was being permitted, the head of the police department was insistent that the playing of cards must cease.

It all came about after a conference held late yesterday afternoon between Mayor George L. Young, City Attorney George D. Christy and Chief Briscoe. It was the culmination of a quiet investigation that has been in progress for several weeks, during which time evidence that gambling was being carried on in several places began piling up.

The places cited by Chief Briscoe include the rooms above the old Crystal bar, the Commercial Hotel bar, the Adams Hotel bar, the Shaw Smoke House, the Grand cigar store, the room in the rear of the Frank Baum room hall, those in the rear of Eddie Dwyer's cigar stand, the Cloverleaf club and two Mexican clubs.

Last night the lights were dim in several places where day and night before there were crowds of men seated about card tables. Not all of these were engaged in what is defined as gambling under city ordinances, but enough of them, according to Chief Briscoe, were clearly violating the law.

PAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS IS CEMENTING FRIENDLY RELATIONS

[Republican A. P. Leased Wire]

WASHINGTON, Jan. 1. — The first week of the Pan-American Scientific Congress ended tonight with a reception to delegates by the board of governors of the Pan-American Union. The function, held at the Pan-American building, was of a semi-official character, and reflected prominently the marked trend toward cultivation of closer relations between the American republics which has characterized all of the sessions of the congress.

Many of the visiting delegates, who include leaders in the political and scientific thought of Latin-America, declared their belief that the meeting here, aside from the results of the many intricate discussions of scientific daily at the score of more of sub-section sessions, had accomplished vast

OSAGE INDIANS ARE CITIZENS

PAWBUCK, Okla., Jan. 1. — Oklahoma received a New Years gift of 2,229 citizens, each of whom is worth \$39,000 when Judge Henry Hudson handed down a decision today holding that all Osage Indians were full citizens of the United States and as such were entitled to all rights, privileges and immunities granted in the fourteenth constitutional amendment. The decision gives the 2,229 members of the Osage tribe complete control over their personal properties.

RELIEF FOR THE WOUNDED FURTHER CALL

Local Branch of Surgical Dressings Committee, Though Pleased With Interest In Work Urges Further Response

Early in the great world war it was realized that the reserve stock of surgical supplies and dressings would soon be exhausted, and that those countries whose factor forces were being depleted by constant enlistment would soon find it impossible to fill even a small portion of even the most imperative orders. America, known for her generosity to suffering humanity everywhere, was appealed to, and there was formed in New York, the Surgical Dressings Committee, under a department of the National Civic Federation, its purpose being to supply small emergency hospitals in Europe with sterilized form for immediate use. During the first twelve months of its existence over 2,000,000 surgical dressings were shipped to various hospitals in Europe for free distribution. Eleven states were organized under efficient chairmen and over 500 committees were at work.

All dressings made in this country are shipped to the headquarters in New York, there inspected, sterilized, packed and shipped to central points on the continent, from which they are distributed in a few hours to the camps or hospitals needing relief. This method of distribution saves at least two months over the earlier plan of shipping direct to individual hospitals.

The work of the Surgical Dressings Committee has been carried on by

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STRIKERS VOTE DOWN OFFER OF AN INCREASE

Mine Managers Agree to Resume Operations in the Clifton-Morenci District if Western Federation of Miners is Eliminated

BASE WAGES ON PRICE OF COPPER

American Miners Vote for Acceptance, But Foreigners, Evidently Not Understanding Proposition, Defeat Settlement

(Special to The Republican.)

CLIFTON, Ariz., Jan. 1. — An offer submitted by the managers of the Arizona Copper company through the Citizens' mediation committee of Clifton to the striking miners of the Clifton-Morenci district, agreeing to resume operations with former employees with an extension of the present scale schedule on a basis of 20-cent copper, provided the men would surrender their Western Federation of Miners charter, was voted down this afternoon. The proposal of the managers would put nearly 2,000 men at work at higher wages than have ever before been paid in the district and would guarantee further increases in copper advances in price. It would mean an immediate increase of approximately 5 per cent over what the men were earning when they went out several months ago, but would not mean recognition of their demands from a union standpoint.

The mediation committee, composed of neutral citizens of Clifton, has been negotiating with the union executive committee and with the mine managers for several days. It was understood that the union would agree to eliminate the Western Federation, but would insist on substantial increases. The managers were willing to negotiate as soon as they ascertained that the Federation would be eliminated. They then announced to the mediators that they were prepared to resume operations provided the strikers surrender the local Federation charter. The further proposal was to place the wage scale on a basis in accordance with the selling price of copper. Copper stood at 19 cents when the strike was declared, and, adopting the scale then in operation, it would mean that approximately a 5 per cent increase would become effective with copper now at 20 cents.

The executive committee of the miners this afternoon presented the proposition to the miners. Americans almost unanimously voted for acceptance, but the Italian miners unanimously and Mexicans largely voted against.

Under the proposed schedule, the following schedule would be in

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